

The Open Mike^{District 2}



A Newsletter From Councilman **Mike Knapp**

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July 2005

Homeland Security

UK Blasts Reinforce Need for Coordination Between Montgomery County, DC/VA Region

The security of our community and our region has been at the forefront of much of our thinking since September 11, 2001. [The tragic attacks in London](#) this month have only served to reinforce the need for a coordinated approach to security and communications within the Greater Washington Metropolitan region. To provide increased oversight to our County's preparedness efforts, the County Council established a Homeland Security Committee (HSC) in 2003. It has been my honor -- and solemn responsibility -- to serve as Chairman of the HSC since the committee's inception.

At the HSC, our mission is to work with the County Executive, key County emergency first responding units and County agencies to provide the highest assurances to our residents that our County can and will respond quickly and effectively in the event of an emergency.

But security and preparedness issues don't stop at our County's boundaries. We face unique challenges in Montgomery County due simply to geography. Because our county shares a

common border not only with other Maryland counties, but also with the District of Columbia and the State of Virginia, we must work extra hard to coordinate with other state and local governments throughout the region.



Rescue workers in London race to assist victims at the scene of one of the city's July 5 bombings. The coordinated efforts of London's various rescue workers and emergency agencies can serve as an example for Montgomery County in developing an organized response in the event of an emergency.

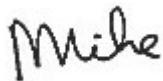
This past year the Council approved and funded the County Executive's recommendation to create a [Homeland Security Department](#) for Montgomery County. The Department's director, Mr.

Gordon Aoyagi, is responsible for ensuring that emergency preparedness planning is coordinated and communicated between the County's various agencies and departments, as well as with other regions. With Mr. Aoyagi's leadership, the County can also begin to take better advantage of Federal grants to help defer some of the considerable expense of paying for preparedness. The HSC committee meets regularly with the Director to determine the most effective ways to coordinate Montgomery County's efforts..

I'm also the Council's liaison to the Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC), the advisory body on homeland security planning and coordination efforts for the greater metropolitan region. Because the County's security is directly tied into the region's security measures, it's important that we all work together in a coordinated effort. As a member of the EPC, I saw first-hand the critical role our county's "first responders" play in the event of an emergency; for this reason, I worked to steer federal and local resources toward much-needed equipment and training exercises for our local first responders. We have come a long way – but there is still more to be done.

In the coming months, look for the HSC to hold periodic hearings to receive updates on the County's ongoing preparedness efforts. This fall, the region will embark on a preparedness campaign to better educate all of us on how to be aware and prepared. We'll show you what you can do to be prepared in the event the unknown should occur, whether it's a terrorist attack or a massive ice storm that cripples the region. Could you self-sustain for 72 hours, as the county works to bring assistance to you and your community? Keep watching *The Open Mike* for more information.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions – we're all in this together.



Clarksburg

What In The World Is Going On In Clarksburg?

The development problems in the Clarksburg community -- most recently the Planning Board's finding of violations of height and set-back restrictions in new Clarksburg Town Center residences -- are of very serious concern to me. Over the past few weeks, I've walked the neighborhood, knocking on doors and talking to residents to learn first hand of their concerns, comments, and cares. After talking with residents and walking the area, I'm convinced more than ever that there is much more going on than merely height and set-back problems. While those problems are well-documented, any public official who believes these are the *only* problems that need to be addressed is clearly missing the boat and missing the point. Recent actions by the council and others to mitigate the height/set-back issues are only a small part of the story. My discussions with area residents centered not just on zoning issues, but also roads, public safety, recreation, and phasing of facilities. The community -- and the County Council -- want and need to ensure that there is adequate oversight and coordination to make Clarksburg the community that we all envisioned.

I applaud the proactive leadership of local activists who brought these issues to light. The entire Clarksburg community, in fact, has been remarkably firm, yet patient, as it has been searching for both answers and resolution. While a number of issues have been addressed -- Piedmont Road is now open, for example, and the Council recently approved a special appropriation to provide funding for a temporary Clarksburg fire station, which local fire and rescue are working to have

fully operational as quickly as possible -- it is my hope that the remaining issues will be recognized and resolved just as quickly.

I cosponsored [Bill 22-05](#), which would have put on hold any building permits until site plan compliance had been confirmed by the Chairman of the [Montgomery County Planning Board](#) and the Director of [Permitting Services](#). I believe that the County Council has an obligation to exercise its oversight and take decisive, legislative action to ensure that there will be no further violations while we work to resolve this matter. As I noted at the time

...my single greatest concern of all the issues that exist is the credibility of Montgomery County's planning process, and most specifically the implementation and enforcement of that process. The Planning Board, the County Council, and most importantly, the residents of our communities spent an amazing amount of time participating in the development of our Master Plans with the expectation that these plans will guide what ultimately is placed on the ground. There is now a perception as a result of the issues in Clarksburg that what is in the Master Plan is not being followed, and as a result that these issues may not be confined to just Clarksburg.

Bill 22-05 was considered by the Council on Tuesday, July 26; unfortunately, this legislation was defeated by the Council in favor of a non-binding resolution. *(For a copy of the briefing memo prepared for the Council, please click [here](#).)* Frankly, I'm disappointed that the hard work of the Clarksburg Town Center Advisory Committee was not rewarded with a more decisive action by the Council. While the resolution approved on the 26th discusses measures already under way, it lacks the force of law that I believed to be necessary to resolve this matter effectively.

You can be certain that I'll continue to stay actively involved in the Clarksburg community and will work proactively to resolve this frustrating situation. I'm hoping to walk the Clarksburg neighborhoods again shortly; in the meantime, please call or [e-mail me](#) with any further comments, questions, or concerns you may have.

Upcounty Historic Preservation Organization, Writer Honored; New Projects Progressing

The four-year old Goshen Historic Preservation Society (GHPS) and its members were recently honored with two awards at the Annual Montgomery County Awards for Historic Preservation and Montgomery Prize, presented on June 3, 2005, by [Montgomery Preservation Inc.](#) GHPS was the recipient of the distinguished Montgomery Prize for its sustained efforts to preserve and document the heritage, families, and structural history of Goshen and Pratherstown. Additionally, GHPS member Sharon Prather was awarded the Educational Award in Historic Preservation for her book, *And We All Came Together: Pratherstown Then and Now – A Collection of Memories* (available for purchase through the Montgomery County Historical Society, by clicking [here](#). Or you can e-mail Sharon Prather at Ptownbook@aol.com. She'll be glad to hear from you.)

"We're just elated about these awards," GHPS co-founder Joanna Atay told *The Open Mike*. "We've only been in existence for four years, so this is a big deal. We originally organized because of the danger of tearing down some of the older homes in Pratherstown and in other areas of Goshen. Many of these homes are now in the process of being designated as historic by the Maryland State Historic Resources Committee."

The awards were presented on June 3, 2005, by at the restored Thomas Cannery in Gaithersburg. The following awards were presented that evening:

The County Executive's Award for Historic Preservation: Charles and Carol Bergman, for restoration of the White-Carlin House

President's Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Historic Preservation -- 2004 National Register of Historic Places Listings: Hammond Wood, Rock Creek Woods and Takoma Avenue Historic District, awarded to Charles Goodman (posthumous), Paul Hammond (posthumous), Paul Burman, Herchel Blumberg and Marvin Blumberg.

Construction, Renovation and Restoration Awards:

Restoration and Preservation of an 18th Century Residence: Josh and Michelle Freeman for Tusculum Farm

Restoration and Preservation of a 19th Century Residence: William McKinnon for Moreland

Renovation and Restoration of a Historic Resource for Public Use: Carolyn Shawaker, Mayor of Garrett Park for Penn Place

Renovation and Rehabilitation of a Historic Resource for Commercial Use: Richard Ward for the Historic Thomas Cannery

Renovation and Restoration of a Historic Resource for Non-Profit Use: The Smithville Rosenwald Colored School on Randolph Road, Silver Spring and to the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Iota Upsilon Lambda Chapter

Creation of a Historic Landscape: Sidney Katz, Mayor of Gaithersburg for the Gaithersburg History Park

Restoration of a Historic Accessory Building: John H. Gassaway

Special Achievement Awards:

Outstanding Creation of an Educational Project: Sharon Prather, for her book, *And We All Came Together: Prathertown Then and Now A collection of Memories*;

Outstanding Individual – Location Preservation Effort: Judy Reardon (posthumous) for her efforts to preserve Silver Spring;

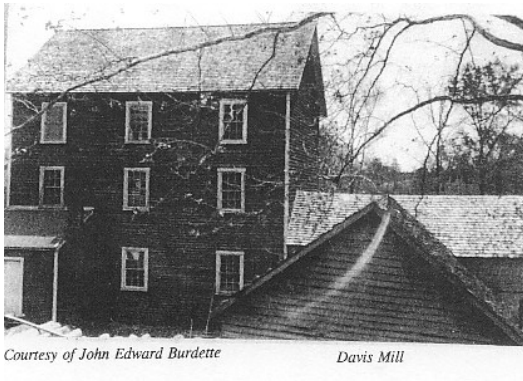
Outstanding Individual – Local Preservation Effort: Nancy Urban, for preserving, restoring and maintaining the Silver Spring B & O Train Station, and for her services to MPI.

The Montgomery Prize for Sustained Excellence and Initiative in Historic Preservation: Goshen Historical Preservation Society, for sustained efforts to preserve and document the heritage, families and structural history of Goshen and Prathertown. The awards were accepted by Joanne Atay and Bonnie Bell.

Work begins on Davis Mill restoration

In addition to the awards, the Goshen Historic Preservation Society is pleased to announce that parts of the John Davis Mill site are being restored by Frank Ierardi and volunteers throughout the County. Maryland tax assessment records show a mill on the site in Goshen as early as 1783; the mill was in continual use through the Civil War and into the 20th century, until it burned down in

the 1940s. This project is being supported by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. You can find out more on the Davis Mill Preservation Project -- and the Seneca Creek Mills Study -- by clicking [here](#), or by visiting <http://www.senecatrail.org/mills.htm>.



Davis Mill then...

..and now.

Don't Let Those Recyclables Go To Waste!

"Nothing in nature is exhausted in its first use. When a thing has served an end to the uttermost, it is wholly new for an ulterior service...."

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*, 1836

Reflecting Emerson's philosophy that nothing "is exhausted in its first use," Montgomery County takes recycling seriously -- and has for some time. Since 1993, the County has had a mandatory recycling policy for County residents, multi-family properties, and businesses.

Under this policy, everyone who lives, works, goes to school, shops or visits Montgomery County must recycle. In February 2005, the County approved [Executive Regulation 15-04AM](#) to further improve recycling participation across the County. In early July, the County Council had a conversation with representatives of the [Division of Solid Waste Services](#) (DSWS) and the [Department of Public Works and Transportation](#) (DPWT) to learn more about the County's efforts in implementing the new recycling and solid waste policies under Executive Regulation 15-04AM.



I'm pleased to report that, for the most part, we're doing well, especially in the single-family residential sector. While the County Council has established a County-wide goal to recycle 50% of all our solid waste, single-family residential recycling exceeds that mark. So, to those of you who are regularly dragging the big blue bins brimming with paper, cardboard, bottles and cans down to the street -- thank you.

However, it's also clear we need to improve recycling in the commercial sector, which recycles about 30% of its materials, and in the multi-family sector, with a recycling rate of about 12%. It's not that businesses and residents of multi-family dwelling don't *want* to recycle, but rather that the County either has not necessarily done enough to make clear what the County recycling policies are, or has not made it convenient for them to recycle. Therefore, the Council has asked DPWT to look at different approaches for improving the recycling rates in the commercial and multi-family sectors.

In the meantime, I want to encourage all county residents -- no matter where you live -- to continue to recycle whatever they can. Recycling not only conserves and protects our natural resources, but also protects our communities from the need to build disposal facilities, landfills, and incinerators. It's vital that we all do our part.

Just below you'll find a list of what presently **must** be recycled by single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, and businesses. Right now, the County will not be imposing any fines for violating recycling policies -- meaning if you fail to recycle something that *can* be recycled, the County will officially look the other way ... at least until February 2006 (all thanks to [Executive Regulation 18-04](#)).

Recycling Requirements

Single-family residences, multi-family dwellings (such as apartments and condos) and businesses **must** recycle the following materials:

- **Mixed paper** -- all clean, dry paper items mixed and collected together, including white and colored paper, cardboard, newspapers, inserts, magazines, catalogs, phone books, paperback books, and unwanted mail.
- **Commingled materials** -- aluminum cans and foil products, bi-metal cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic narrow neck bottles, mixed together.
- **Yard trim** -- leaves, grass, garden trimmings, brush, and Christmas trees.
- **Scrap metal items** -- items consisting of metal and/or predominantly metal materials, such as washers, dyers, refrigerators, sinks, hot water heaters, metal furniture, bikes, and swing sets are collected on your recycling day by calling (240) 777-6140 and scheduling a special collection.

For more information on recycling requirements, please visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

Contact Me!

I always welcome your views and comments, whether in person, electronically, or by phone. Here's all the information you need to reach me:

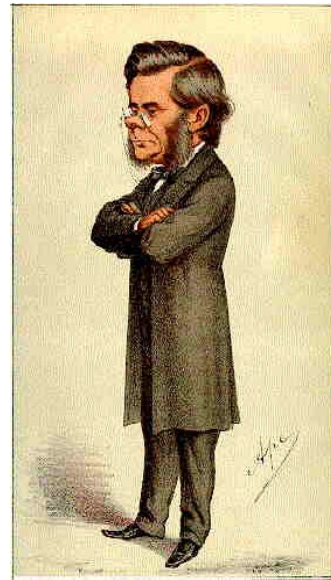
Councilmember Mike Knapp
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The Upcounty Road Scholar

Got a road that needs repairing? A traffic light that's out? Is there a street or intersection that you think needs a stop sign or crosswalk? One of my responsibilities is to make sure someone knows about it -- and to do what I can to get you information on your question or request as quickly as possible.

I stay in regular contact with the [Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation](#) (DPWT) and the [Maryland State Highway Administration](#) (MSHA), and provide each agency with a list of projects that need addressing in the Upcounty. Both agencies receive countless requests each week, and getting a response back can take some time. So bear with me -- if you don't see a particular project listed here, that doesn't necessarily mean it has been forgotten or neglected, but rather that I have not received an updated report on its progress this month.

With this in mind, the Road Scholar section of the newsletter provides an opportunity to give you the latest information received from DPWT, MSHA, and others on the progress of requests that have been submitted on your behalf. It's also an opportunity for you to [let me know](#) of other projects that may need to be undertaken in your community.



Got a question on the roads, sidewalks, or construction in your area? [E-mail the Road Scholar](#) and let us know.

State Highways Administration Update

Here's the latest information on the requests I've submitted to MSHA, courtesy of District Engineer Charlie Watkins:

MD 28 (Ridge Road) and Sweepstakes (Valley Park): State Highway Traffic Engineering staff will be evaluating this intersection to determine if a change in the existing traffic signal is justified. This type of evaluation usually takes 90 days to complete.

MD 355 (Frederick Road) and Scenery Drive: Traffic engineering staff will evaluate this intersection to determine whether a traffic signal is needed, and to check the sightlines. This type of evaluation also takes 90 days to complete.

Sidewalks on MD 117 (Clopper Road) from Kingsview Recreation Center to Festival Way/Steeple Road: MSHA's Retrofit Sidewalk Program was established to provide funding for the construction of sidewalks along State maintained roadways, such as MD 117. Unfortunately, funding for this program was eliminated by the state legislature for FY 2006, making it impossible to fund such a project this year. MSHA has advised the Road Scholar to resubmit a new request in FY 2007, in the event new funding is made available.

Open Mike Tour 2005: **Join Me For An Open Mike Night In Your Community!**

This autumn, I'll be making my annual Open Mike Tour of the Upcounty region to learn more about what matters to you and your neighbors when it comes to your county and community. This is an opportunity for you and your neighbors to bring your concerns, comments, suggestions, complaints, recommendations, you name it, directly to me.

If you don't see your community, or a nearby community, listed here, don't panic -- I'm still trying to schedule meetings in a number of other communities before the end of the year. Keep watching future issues of *The Open Mike* for updates.

COMMUNITY	TIME	LOCATION
Darnestown	Wednesday, September 14 , 2005, 7:00 p.m.	Darnestown Presbyterian Church 15120 Turkey Foot Road, Darnestown
Goshen	Saturday, September 17 , 2005, 10:00 a.m.	Church of Nazarene 8910 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg
Boyd's	Wednesday, September 21 , 2005, 7:00 p.m.	Boyd's Presbyterian Church 19901 White Ground Road, Boyd's (
Montgomery Village	Wednesday, October 5 , 2005, 7:00 p.m.	Gaithersburg Library 18330 Montgomery Village Avenue, Gaithersburg
Germantown	Saturday, October 22 , 2005, 10:00 a.m.	BlackRock Center for the Arts 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown
Damascus	Wednesday, October 26 , 2005, 7:00 p.m.	Damascus Library 9701 Main Street, Damascus

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